

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The present amendment is submitted in reply to the non-final Office Action dated April 21, 2005. In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 9, 10, 13-15 and 17-19 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ueda (U.S. Patent No. 5,004,899) in view of Combaluzier (U.S. Patent No. 5,973,475). In addition, claim 20 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ueda and Combaluzier and further in view of Pentz et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,471,127).

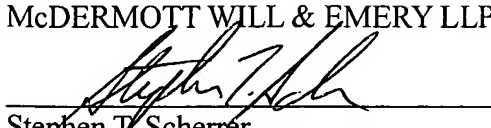
Applicants note with appreciation that the Examiner has indicated that claims 21-24 are allowable. By the present Amendment, Applicants have canceled claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 9, 10, 13-15 and 17-20 without prejudice or disclaimer. This amendment is made to place the application in condition for allowance and Applicants respectfully submit that the cancellation of these claims should in no way restrict Applicants' right to file a divisional application or continuation application for these cancelled claims.

In view of the foregoing remarks and amendments, Applicants respectfully submit that all of the claims in the application are in allowable form and that the application is now in condition for allowance. If, however, any outstanding issues remain, Applicants urge the Examiner to telephone Applicants' attorney so that the same may be resolved and the application expedited to issue. Applicants request the Examiner to indicate all claims as allowable and to pass the application to issue.

In re Lasch et al.
U.S. Patent Application No. 10/802,171

Respectfully submitted,

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